

Remarks

Entry of the above-noted amendments, reconsideration of the application, and allowance of all claims pending are respectfully requested. By this amendment, claims 22-33 are added. These amendments to the claims constitute a bona fide attempt by applicants to advance prosecution of the application and obtain allowance of certain claims, and are in no way meant to acquiesce to the substance of the rejections. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the specification (e.g., page 7, line 16, to page 8, line 4; page 9, line 20, to page 10, line 4; and page 12, line 16, to page 13, line 19), drawings (e.g., FIGS. 1-2, 5-6, and 8), and claims and thus, no new matter has been added. Claims 1-6, 8-10, 13-14, 16, and 18-33 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter:

In the 03/15/2004 Office Action, claims 12, 15, and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the 05/07/2004 Response, claim 1 was rewritten to include the limitations of claim 12 and any intervening claims (claim 11). Claim 14 was rewritten to include the limitations of claim 15 and any intervening claims (there were none). Claim 16 was rewritten to include the limitations of claim 17 and any intervening claims (there were none). An indication of allowance of claims 1-6, 8-10, 13-14, 16, and 18-21 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103:

In the 03/15/2004 Office Action, claims 1-6, 8-9, 11, 14, 16, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Porter (U.S. Patent No. 5,963,618; "Porter").

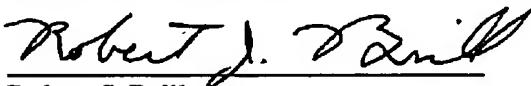
Claims 1, 13-14, and 16 were rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chau, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,751,792) in view of Shaffer, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,596) in further view of Cannon (U.S. Patent No. 6,519,327). Claims 10 and 21 were rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Porter in view of Finnigan, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,181,780). Assuming, *arguendo*, that these rejections are correct, the rejections are nevertheless moot in view of the amendments to claims 1, 14, and 16 in the 05/07/2004 Response.

Withdrawal of the §§102 and 103 rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

In addition, the independent claims 22 and 25 presented herewith are believed neither anticipated nor obvious over the art of record. The corresponding dependent claims are believed allowable for the same reasons as the corresponding independent claims 22 and 25, as well as for their own additional characterizations.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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